

# HONORING MARY ELIZA MAHONEY, AMERICA'S FIRST PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AFRICAN-AMERICAN NURSE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 386) honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 386

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was born May 7, 1845, in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to Charles Mahoney and Mary Jane Seward Mahoney;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney, at the age of 33, was accepted as a student nurse at the hospital-based program of nursing at the New England Hospital for Women and Children;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was one of four students, of a class of 40, who completed nursing at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in 1879;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney devoted her time and efforts unselfishly to the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and was installed as the Official Chaplain;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney's motto was "Work more and better the coming year than the previous year.";

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney delivered the first annual key note speech of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and established the Mary Eliza award, which today continues as the Mary Eliza Mahoney Award bestowed biennially by the American Nurses Association;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney supported the suffrage movement and was the first African-American professionally trained nurse to receive retirement benefits from a fund left by a Boston physician to care for 60 nurses, who received twenty-five dollars every three months as long as they lived;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney's gravesite is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, Massachusetts, and the headstone on her grave states, "The First Professional Negro Nurse in the U.S.A.";

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 1976;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney advanced the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice and confronting issues affecting professional nurses, such as the shortage of nurses;

Whereas today the shortage of nurses is a crisis, estimated to be 110,000 nurses, and is expected to increase to 2,800,000 by 2020 if this trend continues; and

Whereas nursing is a critical investment to the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, and the Nation should invest in and value nursing care: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) honors Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first African-American nurse for an outstanding nursing career, dedication to the United States nursing profession, and exemplary contributions to local and national professional nursing organizations;

(2) recognizes Mary Eliza Mahoney as the first professionally trained African-American nurse, and honors other African-American nurses who practice nursing with distinction;

(3) honors and supports the goals and activities of National Nurses Week;

(4) promotes further understanding and public awareness of the history of American

nurses, who practiced nursing with compassion and devotion and transmitted new scientific knowledge using science-based nursing practice; and

(5) advocates for women of color to enter nursing and supports strategies to counteract the shortage of nurses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 386, honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, as America's first professionally trained African-American nurse.

Born in 1845, Mary Eliza Mahoney lived with her parents, Charles Mahoney and Mary Jane Steward Mahoney. For 15 years, Mary Eliza worked alternately as a cook, janitor, washerwoman, and an unofficial nurse's assistant at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

In 1878, at the age of 33, she was admitted as a student into the hospital's nursing program. After graduation, 16 months later, Mary Eliza worked primarily as a private-duty nurse. Her nursing career ended as director of an orphanage in Long Island, New York, a position she had held for over a decade.

As the resolution states, Mary Eliza Mahoney's motto was always, "Work more and better the coming year than the previous year." Mahoney also recognized the need of nurses for nurses to work together to improve the status of African Americans in the profession.

In 1908, she was the cofounder of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Mahoney gave the welcoming address at the first convention of NACGN and served as the association's national chaplain. She became an inspiration to all nurses and helped make it possible for the members of the NACGN to be received at the White House by President Warren G. Harding.

Ms. Mahoney died in 1926. Because of her dedication and untiring will to inspire future generations, she has been an inspiration to thousands who are a part of the nursing profession.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the author of this resolution, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for her leadership in honoring this great American. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is not every day that we get to pay tribute to a truly special person that served our country like Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse. I want to indicate my support for H. Con. Resolution 386 offered by Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney's outstanding nursing career, her dedication to the U.S. nursing profession, and exemplary contribution to local and national professional nursing organizations.

Ms. Mahoney was born in 1845 and grew up in an era where many similarly situated African Americans did not have the opportunity for an education. Ms. Mahoney, however, enrolled in nursing school. In 1879, at the age of 34, she was one of only a handful of students in her class who graduated, and the only African American in her class.

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Ms. Mahoney changed the face of nursing as the first African American woman. Afterwards, black students were accepted at school as long as they met the requirements. Not only did she pave the way for African Americans as nurses, she advocated for them. Moreover, she worked hard to counteract the nationwide shortage of nurses, which, of course, continues today.

In 1896, Ms. Mahoney became one of the original members of a predominantly white nurses association, alumni of the United States and Canada, later known as the American Nurses Association, or ANA. In 1908, she was cofounder of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

In addition, Madam Speaker, she supported the voting rights amendment and was the first African American nurse to receive retirement benefits for her lifelong hard work and service to others.

The contributions of people like Mary Eliza Mahoney should be remembered. She set an example more than a century ago that I hope many children today will follow: Work hard, follow your convictions and help others.

The U.S. is expected to have a shortage of 2.8 million nurses by the year 2020, and Congress has to do a lot more to recognize the support, the work of America's nurses both through resolutions like these and through greater funding. Ms. Mahoney was a remarkable woman. We should not let what she fought for so long ago be for naught. That is why I think it is very important that we pass and support this resolution this afternoon.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 386, honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse.

First, I would like to honor my mother, Ivalita Jackson, who served as a vocational nurse

while she raised her children. With her nurturing hand and wise mind, she instilled in me a strong work ethic, a value of education, and a compelling desire toward public service. Her lifetime of hard work, and her commitment to giving and healing remains an inspiration to me.

Mary Eliza Mahoney was born on May 7th, 1845 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Mary became interested in nursing as a teenager. Though she worked as a maid, washerwoman and cook at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury, Massachusetts for fifteen years, her dream was to practice nursing.

The first step to realizing her dream came when, at the age of 33, Ms. Mahoney was accepted into the nursing school at the New England Hospital for Women and Children. One of only four students of a class of forty two to complete the nursing program, Mahoney received her nursing diploma on August 1, 1879.

As such, she became the first African-American graduate nurse. This indeed, was a magnificent accomplishment at a time in this country when the odds were heavily stacked against her as an African-American, and as a woman.

After graduation, Ms. Mahoney became a private duty nurse. Her employers consistently praised her for her calm and quiet efficiency and for her professionalism.

Despite the odds, she proved that African-Americans could successfully enter into the world of professional nursing. She continues to be a source of inspiration to all nurses.

Mahoney was one of the first African-American members of the organization that later became the American Nurses Association (A.N.A.). When the A.N.A. failed to actively admit black nurses, Mahoney strongly supported the establishment of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (N.A.C.G.N.).

Mahoney recognized the inequalities in nursing education and called for a demonstration at the New England Hospital to have more African-American students admitted.

For more than a decade after, Mahoney helped recruit nurses to join the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Today, nursing is the nation's largest health care profession, with more than 2.7 million registered nurses nationwide. In 2003, 9.9 percent of registered nurses were African American.

Ms. Mahoney was strongly concerned with women's equality and was a staunch supporter of the movement to give women the right to vote. At the age of 76, Ms. Mahoney was among the first women in Boston to register to vote after passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

At a time in our country when there is a nurse-shortage crisis, it is important to acknowledge the service and dedication of an outstanding American nurse. More than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2012. Ms. Mahoney is a prime example of a professional woman who values and advocates for education, civil rights, and giving something of yourself for your community and for your nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 386, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 622) to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 622

Whereas in 1898, the Philippines Archipelago was acquired by the United States, became an organized United States territory in 1902, and, in preparation for independence, became a self-governing commonwealth in 1935;

Whereas the people of the Philippines and of the United States developed strong ties throughout the decades-long democratic transition of the island, compelling the United States to assume the responsibilities of defending the archipelago and protecting the people of the Philippines;

Whereas on July 26, 1941, anticipating the aggression of Japanese invasion forces in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the imminent conflict between the United States and Japan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order, calling the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines into armed service under the command of United States Army officers led by General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Government began a devastating four-year war with the United States with their stealth bombing attacks of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Clark Air Field, Philippines, and led to the loss of tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers and countless civilian casualties;

Whereas on February 20, 1946, President Harry Truman stated, "Philippine Army veterans are nationals of the United States and will continue in that status until July 4, 1946. They fought, as American nationals, under the American flag, and under the direction of our military leaders. They fought with gallantry and courage under most difficult conditions. I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Philippine Army veterans.";

Whereas on October 17, 1996, President William J. Clinton issued a proclamation on the anniversary of the 1944 return of United States forces under General MacArthur to liberate the Philippines and said, "I urge all Americans to recall the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of Filipino Veterans of World War II and honor them for their contribution to our freedom.";

Whereas on July 26, 2001, President George W. Bush, in his greetings to the Filipino

World War II veterans said, "More than 120,000 Filipinos fought with unwavering loyalty and great gallantry under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. The combined United States-Philippine forces distinguished themselves by their valor and heroism in defense of freedom and democracy. Thousands of Filipino soldiers gave their lives in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor. These soldiers won for the United States the precious time needed to disrupt the enemy's plan for conquest in the Pacific. During the three long years following these battles, the Filipino people valiantly resisted a brutal Japanese occupation with an indomitable spirit and steadfast loyalty to America.";

and Whereas the contributions of the Filipino people, and the sacrifices of their soldiers in World War II, have not been fully recognized: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors Filipino World War II veterans for their important contributions to the victorious outcome of World War II, including their valiant fight for the liberation of their homeland and their defense of democratic ideals.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LAN-TOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 622, which recognizes and honors Filipino World War II veterans for their important contributions to the victorious outcome of World War II.

This resolution notes that the prior history of the Philippines as a United States territory, then as a self-governing commonwealth, during which time the Filipino Armed Forces were called into service under the command of General Douglas MacArthur in July 1941. Those servicemen fought with gallantry and courage, and thousands gave their lives resisting Japanese aggression and occupation. House Resolution 622 honors those Filipino veterans for their valiant fight, for the liberation of their homeland, and for their defense of democratic ideals.

I commend the cochair of the Philippine Caucus, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), for introducing this long overdue resolution. It was moved forward with the strong support of the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

My colleagues may not be aware that Chairman HYDE was a combat veteran of the Philippine campaign in World War II, and he piloted a landing craft